3 November 1974

Dear Harold:

Another week of work on the house begins tomorrow, so I'll bundle up the enclosed and get it on its way to you.

The Oct. 23rd story on Ray is sent simply to give you an idea of the ho-hum way the Chronicle handled the hearing throughout, using Valentine's stuff from the WXPost service mostly. We also have all Waldron did for the NY Times (except for any Sunday piece or pieces he may have done) in case you need it. However, in general he was no more informative than Valentine, and I have the impression both men either were strongly edited or working under downhold orders. At times the Chronicle used AP or UPI, both of which naturally were minimal in coverage that got this far on the wires. Possibly much more was sent and used regionally that never got out here.

For the past two weeks our neighbor-contractor has been finishing up another job in the East Bay, and I've been using the time to rebuild that long bulkhead of railway ties which runs more than 60 feet along the uphill side of the house, and which you may remember vaguely. Tomorrow Walt is due to arrive for our little job, and we'll first jack up the southeast corner of the house and then make the new elevation permanent and then reinforce it with the three new pillars, with appropriate bracing. Five iron fittings for this assembly, together with the necessary bolts, alone cost $200, so you can imagine what this job would have cost if I hadn't been able to do all the coolie work myself.

We do hope your trip to Tennessee turned out well. Impossible to tell from here, due to the skimpy coverage, how well it went, really, but we have the impression that if anyone read many of the stories it would be impossible not to develop doubts about the case against the defendant. I thought both Valentine and Waldron did well in showing how neither Huie or Foreman apparently dared to show up in person.

Among this batch of enclosures are some initial items dealing with Dr. Lungren, who appears to have been chosen as much for his political leanings as for his medical prowess. It helps one to understand why, among other reason, Nixon passed up free treatment at Camp Pendleton Naval Hospital in favor of a much more expensive private setup where he could control the situation, including the doctor. So much for the Hippocratic Oath.

Best, and let us know how things went when you have some time. (Ha!)

jdw

Social Notes from All Over: Mae Brussell, on KGO radio last week, announced she will marry Elmer Davis. You remember him. He's the black ex-drug addict who was fingered by the police (I think in Santa Monica) for the Fielding break-in. There was some problem about this since he was in the L.A. jail at the time. Anyway, the wheels of justice ground a bit more slowly than usual and he only recently got sprung. Came up to see Mae (as did Tackwood at one point) and romance thereupon blossomed. Tune in tomorrow.